No. 8.

INTRODUCTORY.

DURING the protracted illness of Dr. Kirkpatrick, very many letters were received by his family from kind friends making inquiry as to his condition, and expressing hope for his recovery. After his death the respect and affection in which he was held were manifested by letters of condolence and sympathy, which were very precious as evidences of the high place which he had won for himself in the hearts of his friends, and in the regard of all those who enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with him.

The members of his family desire that there should be some suitable recognition of this friendly interest and affectionate regard rendered to those who have been so kind and so generous in their offer of sympathy; and it seems proper, therefore, to publish and send forth the following brief memorial.

The object in view is simply to record, as briefly as possible, the principal facts in his life, to give some account of his last days, and to collect and preserve the expressed opinions of those who knew him during the labors of his life, and who since his death have borne testimony to the value of his services, and to their appreciation of his worth as a man.

JOHN LYCAN KIRKPATRICK.

By Rev. THOMAS L. PRESTON, D. D.,

PASTOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LEXINGTON, VA.

THE REV. J. L. KIRKPATRICK, D. D., died at his residence in Lexington, Va., June 24th, 1885. He was born in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., Jan. 20th, 1813, of pious Presbyterian parents. At the age of thirteen years, he removed to Virginia, and lived in the house of his uncle, Rev. John Kirkpatrick, of Cumberland Co., where for two years he attended a classical school. He was graduated with distinction from Hampden Sidney College, in 1832. After teaching two years at Charlotte C. H., he entered Union Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach by West Hanover Presbytery, March, 1837; and in November following, was ordained and installed pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg. In 1841 he accepted a call from the church of Gainesville, Ala; and in 1853 he removed to the Glebe Street Church, Charleston, S. C. During his pastorate here, he was for four years the Editor of *The Southern Presbyterian*. In 1860 he resigned his pastorate to undertake an agency for Columbia Seminary, and in 1861 he was made President of Davidson College, N. C. In 1866 he was elected to the chair of Moral Philosophy in Washington College, (now Washington and Lee University.) To this department instruction in Belles-Lettres was subsequently assigned; and, until June 1885, Dr.

Kirkpatrick filled the position of Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres.

In the year 1838, during his pastorate in Lynchburg, he was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Turner, the daughter of Rev. William Leftwich Turner, and of Anne Alexander, the sister of Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander. She died in Lexington, Va., August 8th, 1874, in the sixty-first year of her age.

"Lovely by nature, she was rendered more lovely by grace. For in her every quality of the true woman's mind and heart was taken possession of by the Holy Spirit, and sanctified and elevated into a Christian grace. Her natural virtues were exalted and glorified above nature, and through them all the beauty of holiness seemed to shine."

From August 1874, to June 1885, Dr. Kirkpatrick bore the burdens of life, and performed its duties, bereft of one whose joy it was to lighten life's burdens for him, and to be his solace and comfort.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was a man who studied to shew himself approved unto God a workman that need not be ashamed. His preparation for his work was thorough and complete. He was all his life a diligent and successful student, and steadily rose to eminence in his profession. He was by nature well fitted to succeed in the acquisition of knowledge, having a mind of great acuteness, a retentive memory, the power of patient investigation, the ability to grasp and to arrange the minutest details of any subject, and a judgment unusually clear and sound. All through his life he was greatly esteemed as a preacher and a pastor.

The success that attended his labors in all the churches that he supplied attests the fidelity and earnestness with which he

did his work. His dignity of mind and manners, together with a tenderness in his ministry that deepened with increasing years, made him invaluable as a counsellor and friend to very many who needed, not only advice and instruction, but appreciation and sympathy.

His interest in all the great matters of Church and State led him to the diligent study of the questions that occupied the attention of the people in his day and generation, and he kept himself thoroughly well-informed upon all current matters of interest. He was justly esteemed one of the wisest counsellors of the Church. In the courts of the Church the wisdom, sound judgment, and conservatism of Dr. Kirkpatrick were especially conspicuous. He was the moderator of the General Assembly in 1862, at a time that required the highest skill and the most mature judgment for the conduct of the affairs of the Church, and acquitted himself to the admiration of his brethren. There was not in the whole Church a minister more thoroughly trusted and more readily followed.

In 1863 he was returned to the General Assembly which met in Columbia, S. C., and preached the opening sermon, from Ephesians iii. 8–11.

In this Assembly he was made the chairman of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, and in this capacity rendered most valuable service in the matter of the union of the Old and New School Churches,—a service which he himself ever afterwards regarded with satisfaction, and which largely helped to give him the high reputation which he enjoyed among his brethren as a wise, safe, prudent, and trustworthy guide in the affairs of the Church.

For many years Dr. Kirkpatrick was a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Theological Seminary, in Virginia, and manifested the deepest interest in its work and welfare. He gave the most earnest attention to all the affairs of the Seminary, and his efforts were instrumental in adding considerably to its endowment. He was prevented by the state of his health from attending the meeting of the Trustees in May last, and the following resolution was adopted by the Board, and ordered to be sent to him by the Secretary:

"UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, *May* 6, 1885.

"At a meeting of the Trustees this day, the following minute was adopted:

"The Trustees have learned with sorrow of the continued and increasing infirmities of their venerated and beloved brother, Dr. J. L. Kirkpatrick, incapacitating him from attendance on the present meeting of the Trustees. His kindly face, his cordial manner, his intelligent and profound interest, his wise and temperate counsel, the Trustees have sorely missed. They wish to assure their honored colleague of the affectionate regard in which he is held by every member of this body. They rejoice that for so long a time his influence and efficient services have been so freely given to this Seminary. They hereby offer their sincere sympathy with him in the affliction that denies to them the benefit of his presence, and, earnestly praying that his life may be long spared to the Church and to the world, they devoutly commend him to the God of all grace.

"A copy from the minutes.

F. N. WATKINS, *Secretary.*"

The variety of the positions which Dr. Kirkpatrick was called to fill bear witness to the versatility of his powers. So far as appears from the record of his life, he never failed in anything that he undertook to do, and many of the duties that devolved upon him required special gifts. As a College President and as a Professor, he showed himself to be thoroughly prepared for his work.

His mental training and large stores of information eminently fitted him for these positions.

The reputation which he earned as professor in Washington and Lee University was a most enviable one. He enjoyed the unvarying respect and affection of his colleagues, was greatly beloved by the students, and as a professor did a work which for thoroughness and value left nothing to be desired. It is no small testimony to the acquirements and training of a busy pastor and laborious preacher, that towards the close of a diligent ministerial life, he should be found to be so well fitted for the duties of the professor's chair.

On the 15th of June, Dr. Kirkpatrick tendered his resignation as Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres in the following communication:

"Hon. F. T. Anderson, *Rector*.

"I beg leave through you to tender to the Board of Trustees of Washington and Lee University my resignation of the Professorship I have held in the University for several years.

"My sole reason for this step is the condition of my health, which no longer permits me to discharge the duties of the chair.

"My most sincere gratitude is due to the members of the Board for their uniform kindness and courtesy to me, and with my best wishes for the success of the University, I am,

Respectfully and truly,

J. L. KIRKPATRICK."

To this letter the following response was made:

"*June* 17, 1885.

"The Board having received notice of the resignation of Dr. John L. Kirkpatrick, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres, on account of ill health, hereby respectfully declines to accept this resignation, and in view of his long and exemplary services, constitutes him

Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres, and tenders to him the continued use of the residence he has occupied, and a liberal compensation for such partial services in his department as he may be enabled by God's providence to render.

"Meanwhile the Board offers to Dr. Kirkpatrick the assurance of tender sympathy, with sincere regret in view of his protracted and painful sufferings, trusting that the same gracious Father, the tender, sympathizing High Priest, and the Holy Comforter,—the God he has so long served, and whose blessed truth he has so long and tenderly preached,—will continue to sustain him by the precious word of promise and healthful spirit of grace; and when his change shall come, minister to him an abundant entrance into the rest of his people,—the sanctuary of his eternal worship.

"A copy from the minutes.

JACOB FULLER,
Secretary Board of Trustees."

The relations which Dr. Kirkpatrick sustained to Gen. R. E. Lee during his life, to his son, the now eminent President of the University, and to all the Professors of the institution, were not only cordial, but tender. A few days before his death, hearing that there was to be a Faculty meeting, he sent a message to his colleagues, which will reveal how pleasant his connection with the Professors had always been:

"Express to the Faculty with all sincerity my grateful thanks for their kindness and courtesy to me ever since my connection with the body was formed. I have never received anything but kindness and the utmost courtesy from them; and my prayer is, that the blessing of God may ever rest upon them in all its fulness and power."

To this the following reply was sent:

"WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY, *June* 19, 1885.

"DEAR DR. KIRKPATRICK:

"The Faculty are helpless to express the feeling of tenderness and sorrow stirred by the loving message sent us by you to-day.

It is impossible to tell how much we have missed your wise counsel and your timely and effective help in all our hardest work and most difficult emergencies. We must still cherish the hope that you may be restored to your place among us, while we devoutly thank the kind Providence that has for so many years vouchsafed to us the privilege of association with one from whose wisdom we have learned so much, whose example has been so inspiring, and whose constant kindness has stored our hearts with so many dear and tender memories. May our Heavenly Father still be your stay and comforter.

"For the Faculty.

G. W. C. LEE, *President.*"

The crowning grace of the life of this eminent man was a faith strong, steadfast and sufficient for all the needs of life. Various trials of his faith vindicated its trustworthiness; and we needed only to see how it would give him the victory over death to be assured that the life begun under the covenant of grace, developed under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, tested by God in his Providence, and blessed at its close with the presence of the Saviour, was thoroughly complete and eminently successful.

The closing days of this servant of God were just such as all who knew him would expect. For two years or more he was in failing health. During the last few months of his life he was a great sufferer. There were pains that could not be alleviated by any remedies that could be used, and there was toward the end of life the inability to take or retain nourishment, which was necessarily followed by the most distressing consequences. And yet, all through his sickness and suffering, he was patient and uncomplaining. Not a murmur escaped his lips. Until almost the very last day of life he had the examination papers of his University classes brought to him and laid before him, that he might read and mark them. The work of life did not seem trivial to him at

the hour of death. In this last act of his official work, he illustrated the habit of his life, which was to do thoroughly well whatever he undertook.

The Presbyterian Church has lost an able preacher of the truth, the Theological Seminary a steadfast and life-long supporter, the cause of education an intelligent and enthusiastic advocate, the University an accomplished Professor, and the community of Lexington a thoroughly refined and Christian gentleman.

The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian Church, at Lexington, Va., on Friday, 26th June, at 11 A. M. The ministers of the town were all present. The pastor of the church, Rev. Thomas L. Preston, D. D., was assisted in the service by Rev. D. C. Irwin, Rev. James H. Smith and Rev. A. R. Cocke, the two last having been pupils of Dr. Kirkpatrick.

A large concourse of people filled the church, and all classes of the community were represented. The Faculty and corps of cadets of the Virginia Military Institute attended in a body, and the whole community gave unmistakable evidence of the deep sense of its loss. The pastor of the church delivered an appropriate discourse, from the text, 2 Timothy, ii. 15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The following is a list of the pall-bearers:

1. Faculty of Washington and Lee University.
2. Hon. F. T. Anderson,
   Hon. Wm. McLaughlin,
   Of the Trustees of the University.
3. Gen. F. H. Smith,
   Col. Jno. W. Lyell,
   Of the Faculty of the Virginia Military Institute.
4. Mr. J. McC. Allen,
   Mr. C. M. Crutchfield,
   Students of the University.
5. Mr. William White,
   Col. J. D. H. Ross,
   Of the Session of the Presbyterian Church.
6. Hon. J. Randolph Tucker.
   Col. J. T. L. Preston.
   Prof. W. S. Currell.
   Mr. John L. Campbell, Jr.
   Mr. C. M. Dold.

The interment took place in the Cemetery at Lexington, Va.

ACTION OF THE

TRUSTEES OF WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

AT a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Washington and Lee University, July 23, 1885, the following paper was adopted as the

Memorial of
Rev. John Lycan Kirkpatrick, D. D.

The Board of Trustees of Washington and Lee University, with a profound sense of the melancholy bereavement incurred by the death of this eminent member of the Faculty, place on record this testimony to his character and invaluable services:

Dr. Kirkpatrick was born January 20, 1813, in Mecklenburg County, N. C. He graduated with distinction in Hampden Sidney College, September, 1832, and was licensed, March, 1837, by West Hanover Presbytery, after having prosecuted a full course of theological study in Union Theological Seminary.

He was pastor of Second Church, Lynchburg, 1837–1841; of Gainesville, Ala., 1841–1853; and of Glebe Street Church, Charleston, S. C., 1853–1860.

He was President of Davidson College from 1860 to 1866, and Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres in this institution from 1866 to his death, June 24, 1885. For this posi-

tion he was abundantly qualified by his professional studies, his habitual mental discipline, his discriminating attention to his language and style, his strong common sense and sound judgment. His efforts as a professor, besides his assiduity in the intellectual training of his students, were directed to the building of a "true manhood and Christian character." His strong affection for them, his tender-heartedness, generous sympathies, and Christian counsels, enured to the cultivation of like sentiments in the mind of his pupils. For those among them who had the ministry in view he manifested a special solicitude, both while his pupils and after they passed from his care to prosecute professional study, and entered on the work of the ministry. The moral forces above-mentioned essentially aided his sound but gentle discipline, and together were successfully employed in the government of his pupils. His views were in full accord with those of Gen. R. E. Lee, who relied on him for help and counsel in all relating to the moral and religious welfare of the students. For all the interests of this institution, he exercised thoughtful and ceaseless care, and was looked to by the President and his colleagues in the Faculty for wise and practical counsel. Few have more fully exhibited the inspired description of moral worth, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace."

After a painful and protracted illness, he was called to his rest, illustrating in his peaceful end that "The chamber where the good man meets his fate is privileged beyond the common walks of men."

Copy from the Minutes.

JACOB FULLER, *Secretary.*

MINUTE OF THE FACULTY OF WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

At a meeting of the Faculty of Washington and Lee University, held June 25, 1885, the following minute was ordered to be entered on the records:

Rev. John L. Kirkpatrick, D. D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres in this University, died on Wednesday, June the 24th, in the seventy-third year of his age.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was born in 1813, in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., graduated with distinction at Hampden Sidney College in 1832, and after pursuing the usual course of study in Union Theological Seminary, entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. He spent twenty-three years in pastoral work, officiating in Lynchburg, Va., from 1837 to 1841, in Gainesville, Ala., from 1841 to 1853, and in Charleston, S. C., from 1853 to 1860.

He early attained great eminence as a pastor, theologian, and a member of Church assemblies and courts. The detailed history of his career in the Christian ministry will be more appropriately treated elsewhere.

In 1860, he was called to the presidency of Davidson College, N. C., and in June, 1866, was elected to the chair of Moral Philosophy in Washington College, Va., of which General Robert E. Lee was then President.

Dr. Kirkpatrick brought to his work in this institution all the qualities that go to make up the successful teacher. His mind was clear, logical, and constructive; his judgment sober and mature; his memory singularly strong and exact. To very thorough attainments in moral and ethical science was added an unusually wide acquaintance with general literature. While his experience as a college instructor had not been very large, the line of his studies in Divinity, the severe mental discipline to which he had schooled himself in preparation for the pulpit, and his extreme nicety and care in language and style, had admirably fitted him for the professor's chair. His strong common sense and sound judgment were conspicuously shown in the selection and use of material for successfully conducting the work of a department perhaps the most difficult in the entire range of college studies to make definite and effective.

While assiduous and untiring in the intellectual training of his classes, he never forgot that the great end of all education is the building up of true manhood and Christian character. His large experience and eminent success as a church pastor had enabled him to wield most effectively those moral forces which constitute the motive power in all sound and wholesome discipline and training, and upon these he relied almost exclusively in the government of young men. His views and methods in this regard were in full accord with those of General Lee, who constantly looked to him for help and counsel in all that related to the moral and religious guidance of his students. His strong affections, his singularly wide range of sympathy, his tender-heartedness and Christian devotion inspired in him a profound and abiding interest in all departments of the life of his pupils, from their most serious work to their boyish sports. Candidates for the Christian ministry he

took under his special charge, following them with a father's solicitude through the theological seminary, and in their ministerial work. Many of these will doubtless testify their indebtedness to his wise counsels and guidance.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was untiring in all departments of the professor's work. The interests of the University were the subject of his ceaseless thought and effort. Fertile in suggestion and wise in counsel, he was always looked to for help by his colleagues in all matters of special difficulty and importance. While of strong temper and decided views, he was self-contained, moderate, and persuasive. He maintained relations of warm personal friendship with each member of the Faculty, by whom his loss will be long and keenly felt.

A copy from the Minutes.

JNO. L. CAMPBELL, JR.,
Clerk of the Faculty.

MINUTE OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, *June* 25, 1885.

The Academic Board of the Virginia Military Institute met in called session.

The Superintendent communicated to the Board the death of the Rev. John L. Kirkpatrick, D. D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres in Washington and Lee University, whereupon the following minute was unanimously adopted, and was ordered to be spread upon the Records of the Board, and a copy of the same to be communicated to the President of the University and to the family of the deceased:

The Academic Board of the Virginia Military Institute tender to the Faculty of Washington and Lee University an expression of sincere sympathy in the sorrow occasioned by the death of the Rev. John L. Kirkpatrick, D. D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Belles-Lettres in the University.

We have long recognized his ability and culture as a scholar and divine, his fidelity and usefulness as a teacher, his character as a gentleman, and his purity as a Christian.

Nowhere, except in the Institution in which he was an ornament, has his work been more highly appreciated than in the Virginia Military Institute, where his words of counsel have so often blessed those who have sat under his teaching.

His life has been devoted to the ministry of the Word and to education, and has borne such an abundant fruit that his memory will be cherished by those who survive him, and the light of his example will long shine as a guide and encouragement to those who come after him.

The Academic Board will attend the funeral in a body.

True copy from the Minutes of the Academic Board.

FRANCIS H. SMITH, JR., *Secretary A. B.*

ACTION OF THE SESSION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The following paper was adopted by the Session of the Presbyterian Church at Lexington, July 11, 1885:

The Rev. Dr. J. L. Kirkpatrick entered upon his rest and reward June 24, 1885, in the seventy-third year of his age.

In common with the whole Presbyterian Church, this Session deplores the loss of so eminent and so useful a servant of God.

Few ministers have occupied as varied posts of high responsibility. As a preacher and pastor, he had charge of some of the most important churches within our bounds; as a member of our several courts, he was intrusted with the most important functions connected with our ecclesiastical polity; while as an educator, he trained the minds and influenced the character of many genera-

tions of young men in the highest literary institutions of our land. Integrity, fidelity and industry were the characteristics of his life. His stores of knowledge were ample and exact, and his wisdom in counsel and action was surpassing. Called during his long life, by the providence of God, to take a conspicuous part in the conduct of many important affairs, success, without a single failure, crowned his labors in all. Such a life needed, for complete proof, but one more test—the test of patience under affliction; and this God appointed him. Long-continued severe bodily suffering wasted his frame, but could not overcome his resolute and uncomplaining endurance. True to the characteristics of his life, he continued his official duties almost to his last moments, and laid down his work only to receive his reward.

For such a life and such a death, the Church renders hearty thanks to her adorable Head; but she must deplore the loss of his strong arm and his wise counsel. This community, which, for nearly nineteen years, he adorned with his presence, will long cherish his memory with profound respect; and his more intimate friends must grieve the loss of his companionship.

It is meet that this Session should unite in a tribute of respect to his memory. For the space of more than a year, during a vacancy in the pastorate of our Church, Dr. Kirkpatrick served as pastor *ad interim*. As such, his labors were of the greatest value to our people; and as Moderator of this body, his wisdom, dignity, and brotherly kindness guided us in our deliberations, aided us in our labors, and secured for him our profound respect and warm regard.

The following tribute to Dr. Kirkpatrick, from his life-long friend, the Rev. Samuel W. Blain, is taken from the *Christian Observer*.

JOHN LYCAN KIRKPATRICK, D. D.

Born January 20, 1813; Died June 24, 1885.

It is with feelings of deepest sorrow we write the date of the death of this beloved brother. But whilst we mourn in personal bereavement, we must render thanks to our covenant God for his great mercy to his servant in bestowing upon him so many precious gifts and graces, and permitting him to remain on earth so many years, a blessing to his church and to those who loved him. In him is verified the promise, "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation;" for his life extended two and one-half years beyond the three score and ten.

And during all these years, God gave him sound health, so that all his days were days of constant and of useful labor. For twenty-three years he devoted himself faithfully to pastoral work, and for twenty-six years he was a teacher of young men in the higher learning of the college; for seven years as President of Davidson College, and for nineteen years as Professor of Moral Philosophy, etc., in Washington and Lee University. As preacher and teacher of youth, he was always watchful over the highest interests of those committed to his charge, always diligent in prayer and in study, so that his labor was that of the intellectual athlete,